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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) The number of cases of cholera registered in the Government Headquarters Hospital during the last three years is as follows:—

1951–52	... ...	172
1952–53	... ...	180
1953–54	... ...	303

" (*b*) There is an isolation ward in the Government Headquarters Hospital, Cuddalore."

Congestion in the Government hospitals in the City of Madras.

* 71 *Q.*—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government hospitals in the City of Madras are overcrowded;

(*b*) if so, since when; and

(*c*) the action taken by the Government so far to remove the congestion in these hospitals and with what results?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) For some years past, Sir.

" (*c*) The congestion in the hospitals has been relieved to some extent by adopting the following measures :—

(1) Wherever possible, accommodation and bed-strength of the hospitals have been increased.

(2) More facilities have been and are being provided in the out-patient department of the hospitals for carrying out investigations necessary for the proper medical examination of patients, thereby reducing the number of admissions for in-patient treatment.

(3) Patients are kept in the hospitals only for the period which is considered absolutely necessary."

DR. A. SREENIVASAN :—" May I know, Sir, whether it is not a fact that there is a hospital order that no ward or unit should have more than 25 per cent extra beds and in spite of repeated circulars that have been sent by the Dean of the hospital, no medical officer has cared to reduce the extra bed-strength under him. The order is honoured more in the breach than in the observance? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" There is great demand for admissions and Superintendents of hospitals are afraid of public opinion in this matter. Instructions have been sent to them to see that the excess number of patients admitted to the hospitals is not more than 25 per cent over and above the sanctioned bed-strength. I hope day by day they will be able to reduce the excess number to be admitted to the hospitals."

DR. A. SREENIVASAN :—" May I know, Sir, whether it is not a fact that most of the extra patients were discharged from the hospitals, since I tabled the question? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I do not think, Sir, the hon. Member can claim credit for any such achievement."

DR. A. SREENIVASAN :—" I am quite prepared to prove my point by statistics obtained from the hospitals. There is also another thing that obtains in the hospital . . ."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" I think the hon. Member should put it in the form of a question."

DR. A. SREENIVASAN :—" I am saying this only by way of personal explanation, Sir. I am new to this House and the hon. Member Sri Purushotham cannot expect from me the great parliamentary abilities that he possesses."

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" But the hon. Member should address the Chair while putting questions."

DR. A. SREENIVASAN :—" I am sorry, Sir. Is it not a fact, Sir, that in some of the units in the hospitals every day happens to be admission day on the pretext that they are old cases and will Government examine that aspect of the question? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" A separate question may be asked, Sir. As regards the statement made in the first part of his question, I shall have to enquire and get particulars."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Sir, are not medical officers expected to be rather humane in the matter of admission of patients rather than strictly adhere to the hospital rules? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I have already said, Sir, that on account of humane consideration, the Superintendents are obliged to admit excess number of patients."

SRI K. BHASHYAM :—" Would it be humane to allow overcrowding in hospitals which will endanger the health of all the patients? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" That is why, Sir, directions have been issued to limit the number of excess admissions."

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN :—" May I know, Sir, whether the bed-strength of the General Hospital has been increased and, if so, to what extent? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, it is proposed to increase the bed-strength from 887 to 1,125 when the second floor is reconstructed according to the scheme proposed to convert it into wards."

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SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN :—" May I know the actual time that will be taken to complete the work and increase the bed-strength? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I suppose, Sir, some part of the work has already been completed and the remaining portion will be completed very soon."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" May I know whether the Government have any programme for constructing new hospitals to prevent overcrowding in hospitals? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, the responsibility of providing medical relief in rural areas is that of the local bodies concerned. Government take over taluk headquarters hospitals year after year and then they increase the accommodation by extending them."

DR. A. SREENIVASAN :—" In spite of the humane aspect of the question, does not efficiency suffer by overcrowding? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" It does suffer and that is why Government want to limit the excess number of admissions."

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN :—" When there was over-crowding in the City hospitals, will the Hon. the Minister give us an instance where the physicians, honorary as well as paid, brought to the notice of the Dean the fact that the wards were over-crowded? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" No such instance has come to my notice, Sir. In fact, the medical officers admit the patients. All the hospitals in the City as well as in the mufassal are overcrowded at present."

DR. A. SREENIVASAN :—" May I inform the Hon. Minister for Health that on more than one occasion, I have invited the attention of the Dean regarding the overcrowding and how it could be brought down by exhibiting a certain amount of administrative ability? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I shall be glad to have the valuable suggestions of the hon. Member."

DR. A. SREENIVASAN :—" Government can call for the file from the Dean."

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" It is open to the hon. Member as a Member of this House to send his suggestions direct to Government."

DR. A. SREENIVASAN :—" Why should not the Hon. Minister make use of his powers and obtain the file? It will be

very difficult for me now to recollect from memory the circumstances under which I wrote those notes and then communicate them to the Hon. Minister. It will be quite easy for the Hon. Minister to obtain the file from the Dean."

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I do not see any difficulty in the hon. Member placing his suggestions before me."

Number and place of meetings of the Board of Public Health held from 1st April 1949.

* 72 *Q*.—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number and place of meetings of the Board of Public Health held from 1st April 1949; and

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the Minister for Health appealed to the members of the Public Health Board at one of its meetings held at Ootacamund in 1949–50 to bring forward subjects for the consideration of the Board, as there was dearth of subjects for discussion?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) Six meetings of the Public Health Board were held from 1st April 1949 till date. Three were held at Madras and three at Ootacamund.

" (*b*) No, Sir."

DR. A. SREENIVASAN :—" May I request the Hon. Minister to place a copy of the proceedings of the Board meetings on the table of the House? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I do not think it is necessary, Sir."

DR. A. SREENIVASAN :—" We require it for our information. We do not know what transpired there."

Deputation of medical officers abroad for higher studies in radiology.

* 73 *Q*.—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal to send on deputation abroad any medical officer of the State for higher studies in radiology;

(*b*) if so, the period of the proposed deputation;

(*c*) whether the Government had called for any applications from among the State medical officers for such a deputation; and

(*d*) if so, the qualifications prescribed for the applicant?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) *to* (*d*) The Government have under consideration a proposal submitted by the